

**Clean Beaches Task Force
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
August 30, 2006**

Attendees:

Charlee McGee, Orange Co. Sanitation District
John Ricker, Santa Cruz Environmental Health Services
Jack Petralia, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Richard Lichtenfels, San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services
John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University
Marci McEwen, Marin County Environmental Health Services
Mark Gold, Heal the Bay
Monica Mazur, Co. of Orange Environmental Health
Steve Weisberg, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
Trish Holden, University California Santa Barbara
Peter Mangarella, Geosyntec Consulting

Members Absent:

Dean Peterson, San Mateo County
Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Jack Gregg, California Coastal Commission
John Largier, University of California, Davis
Mary Small, State Coastal Conservancy
Richard Wagener, Los Angeles County Environmental Health

SWRCB Staff:

Laura Peters	Leslie Laudon
Kari Holmes	Ruben Mora
Dayne Kendrick	Kathy Bare
Robin McCraw	Michael Gjerde
Barbara Walton	Lori Casias
Kayla Lewis	

Changes/ Additions to Agenda

John Dorsey gave an update regarding his presentation for the CA & World Ocean Conference (CWO '06) in Long Beach September 17-20. The presentation consists of completed Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) projects and their outcomes (i.e. successful or unsuccessful in reducing bacteria). Diversion projects have proven successful provided there aren't other contamination sources. Ultra violet (UV) treatment projects have been successful if filtration is also a component of the project.

The CBI Program will be presented at the **National Beaches Conference** October 11th-13th, 2006, Niagara Falls, NY.

Proposition 40 Phase 2: New Proposals

Pin No. 10078 and 10081- Santa Cruz County Sanitation District- Capitola Esplanade Sewer Replacement and Aptos Esplanade Sewer Replacement.

Total Cost of Project: \$ 1,900,000; Funds Requested: \$475,000

Capitola Beach and Aptos Creek and Lagoon both have experienced high levels of bacteria and water that is determined unsafe for human contact. Both projects consist of replacing approximately 4,300 feet of sewer collection lines and associated manholes to eliminate sewer seepage in the area.

Discussion: These are good, straightforward projects. However, it is likely that pre-/post-construction monitoring will not show a reduction in bacterial indicator counts. Even if it does, how much reduction can be expected from 2% and 6% human contribution? The lagoons are known to have high bacterial concentrations due to the high bird counts and wildlife upstream; therefore, these areas have permanent postings and are excluded from routine testing. It is recommended that some monitoring be done to quantify the water quality impacts of this type of project. There was a discussion about whether it would be better to do post construction ribotyping analysis or Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (QPCR).

Recommendation: Approve 25% funding for both projects for a total of \$687,843. The CBTF proposes that the County of Santa Cruz Department of Environmental Health, University of CA, Santa Barbara, and State Water Resource Control Board staff work together to develop a monitoring approach that will quantify the benefits of the project. The CBTF recommends that the QPCR method and pre-project and post-project monitoring be considered when developing a monitoring approach for the project. The CBTF recommends granting additional funds to cover the increased monitoring effort.

Pin No. 10082- City of Aliso Viejo- Beneficial Reuse of Urban Runoff within Aliso Creek Watershed.

Total Cost of Project: \$5,000,000; Funds Requested \$5,000,000

Aliso Viejo has 16 storm drain outfalls discharging storm water runoff collected from approximately six square miles of developed land into Aliso Creek and Wood Canyon Creek. The dry weather flow-rate of these outfalls varies from 20 gallons/min to over 100 gallons/min. Aliso Viejo proposes to install a UV treatment system at each storm drain before it enters the creek. Once treated, the water will be discharged back into the creek, ultimately reaching Aliso Beach. The questionnaire stated that the beaches affected are Monarch Beach, Poche Beach, Doheny State Beaches and, Baby Beach.

Discussion: This project is located 4.5 miles up the watershed from the Aliso Creek Beach outfall to the ocean. Aliso Creek Beach is not on the Competitive Location List.

Recommendation: The CBTF does not recommend this project be funded due to the distance of the project from the downstream beach. The CBTF noted that Aliso Creek Beach has not recently been posted or closed due to bacterial contamination; therefore the justification for addition to the Competitive Location List was denied. Additionally, there is a high chance that the treated stormwater would be recontaminated in the 4.5 miles of Aliso Creek between the point of treatment at the last storm drain outfall and the ocean outfall at Aliso Creek Beach. The CBTF encourages a project in this watershed, however they suggest that it be located closer to the beach, where it would have a larger impact to beach water quality.

Pin No. 10086- San Francisco Port Commission- Fisherman's Wharf Pier 45 Process Water/ Storm Water Collection.

Total Cost of Project: \$1,800,000; Funds Requested: \$1,800,000

The proposed project involves installation of a pumping manifold that would allow fishing boats moored along the north end of Pier 45 to tie-in and discharge gurry to a sanitary sewer pump station located between the two Pier 45 fish processing sheds. In addition, a new storm water collection system would be installed along the north deck of Pier 45 to direct all storm water runoff from this area to the City's sewer system to the Pier 45 pump station. Drainage improvements along the Pier 45 north pier deck would provide improved water quality year round. The project includes upgrades to the existing sanitary sewer pump station at Pier 45 in order to create capacity for the additional flows.

Discussion: The CBTF would like to know the capacity of the pumping manifold and the volume of fish gurry to be diverted. They would also like the Port to demonstrate why Pier 45 is a major fecal bacteria source to the swimming area in Aquatic Park. Have other sources of bacteria contamination at Aquatic Park been assessed? Additionally, they would like information regarding the storm water diversion structure, including the size of the diversion and the volume of flow to be diverted. Finally they would like to see a cost breakdown for 1) the installation of the pumping manifold, 2) the new storm water collection system, and 3) adding a pump and connection to the existing oil/water separator in the Pier 45 parking area.

Recommendation: The project is conditionally approved based on the response to the above questions. State Water Board staff will gather the information and disseminate the response via email.

Pin No. 10095- City of Newport Beach- Newport Dunes Beaches Circulation Project.

Total Cost of Project: \$705,000; Funds Requested: \$680,000

Newport Dunes Beaches are the most popular swimming beaches within Newport Bay, and are located in the southeast corner of Upper Newport Bay. The Dunes has a limited hydraulic connection to the rest of Newport Bay, which hinders tidal flushing. The City of Newport Beach has extensively studied this area and believes this poor circulation plays a major role in the poor water quality found in the Dunes. Also, Newport Dunes Beaches are listed on the State Board's Competitive Location List. The City is seeking a Prop 40 grant to design, procure and install twelve (12) mechanical flow enhancers (Oloids) to improve water circulation within the Dunes area. The City has already tested the Oloids (using City funds), and the Oloids were found to be very effective in improving water circulation.

Discussion: The water quality in Newport Dunes has improved significantly since the Proposition 13 storm drain diversions were installed. There was discussion about effect the circulation devices would have on the beach water quality at ankle depth. The CBTF is very disappointed that the original project in West Newport Channel was cancelled due to neighborhood concerns about noise.

Recommendation: The project was not recommended for funding due to the lack of recent postings/closures at the Dunes.

Pin No. 10093- City of Oceanside- Loma Alta Creek Ultra Violet Treatment Facility

Total Cost of Project: \$ 5,253,536; Funds Requested: \$ 5,000,000

The proposed project involves the construction of a filtration and ultraviolet radiation (UV) water treatment facility to be located adjacent to the Loma Alta Creek outlet in the City of Oceanside, at the existing La Salina Wastewater Treatment Facility. One hundred percent of the dry weather creek flows (averaging 900 gallons per minute) will be intercepted at the outlet and diverted to the UV water treatment facility, located on the northern bank of the creek. The treatment facility would be housed within a reinforced concrete building. The overall project, once completed, will capture up to 900 gallons per minute of urban runoff, treat it, and discharge it through a pipe that will extend along the existing section of rip-rap that runs along the north side of the Loma Alta creek outlet at Buccaneer Beach. During wet weather months (December through April), the lagoon would be opened to allow free flow to the ocean and the UV system would be bypassed.

Discussion: The City initially requested \$2,355,000 for the project, however, when the engineer's estimate was revisited, they realized that it would cost significantly more, so they are now requesting \$5,000,000. The CBTF would like the City to respond to the following questions prior to making the final recommendation: 1) Discuss the wildlife impacts caused by the removal of creek water; 2) Has the Department of Fish and Game been notified of this Project and if so, what is their stance on this Project; and 3) The dry weather creek flow is currently being diverted to the wastewater treatment plant's ocean outfall. What is the outfall capacity and why can't they continue this practice?

Recommendation: The project is conditionally approved based on the response to the above questions. State Water Board staff will gather the information and disseminate the response via email.

Proposition 40 Phase 2: Revisit Proposals

Pin No. 10047 & 10049- Los Angeles County- Surfrider and Topanga Beach

Total Cost of Project: \$ 550,900; Funds Requested: \$ 137,725

The County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors submitted two similar project proposals to reconstruct the existing septic systems serving the beach restrooms at Malibu Surfrider and Topanga County Beaches. At the May 30, 2006 CBTF meeting, the Task Force asked that the County provide additional information to better define the problem and determine the connection (if any) between the onsite septic system and the beach postings. The County provided a response, citing The Topanga Creek Watershed Water Quality Study Final Report as the basis of their claim that the high ground water at the beaches prevents adequate pollutant treatment due to the shallow soil profile below the leach fields.

Discussion: There is still some concern as to whether this project will directly impact the bacteria concentrations at the beaches, although the CBTF members agreed that it is a good idea to remove septic tanks from the beaches. The proposed project is an advanced, mini-tertiary treatment system that will remove most of the bacteria and nutrients from the wastewater before being discharged to a disposal field.

Recommendation: Approve 25% funding for both projects for a total of \$137,725 with the following provisions: 1) make sure the agreement requires that the existing septic tanks are

properly abandoned, and 2) include a task in the agreement to allow for an independent check of the installation, to ensure that the new system is constructed as designed.

Pin No. 8990- City of Del Mar

Total Cost of Project: \$5,000,000; Funds Requested: \$ 1,250,000

The City of Del Mar submitted an application earlier this year requesting 25% funding for the rehabilitation of an aging sewer lift station adjacent to San Dieguito River, which flows to the Pacific Ocean in Del Mar.

Discussion: The beach in Del Mar has not had bacteria impairment in the recent past, and the CBTF thinks that the funds would be better spent on other projects.

Recommendation: The project was not recommended for funding.

Proposition 40 Phase 2: Dispensation of Remaining Funds

The final date to encumber Proposition 40 funds is December 31, 2006. Since there is no time left to keep the solicitation open, it was decided that any unspent funds will be awarded to Santa Cruz County Sanitation District for the relocation of sewer lines from New Brighton and Seacliff State Beaches. This project was proposed in the Consolidated Grants funding program, however it was not successful. The CBTF determined that it was appropriate to partially fund with any remaining CBI grant funds.

CBI Proposition 50 Guidelines

The CBTF had the following comments on the CBI Proposition 50 Guidelines:

- Allow source tracking and sanitary survey studies, provided they are tied to an implementation project. Proposition 50 funds could be used for the Phase 1 studies, and the implementation (Phase 2) portion of the projects could be funded with remaining Proposition 13 and any re-appropriated Proposition 40 funds, which have longer encumbrance periods.
- Limit eligible costs of wastewater system improvement projects to 25 percent of the total project costs.
- All proposed projects must show justification. The Competitive Location List should be renamed CBTF Priority Beaches and used as guidance. Placement on the CBTF Priority Beaches List does not guarantee funding.
- Proposition 40 funds that become available will be solicited under these guidelines.

When the final guidelines are sent out for review and adoption, Water Board staff will send an email to the CBI email list subscribers letting them know that CBTF assistance is available during Concept Proposal preparation phase.

Additionally, Water Board staff will identify up to four agencies with jurisdiction at four beaches on the Priority Beaches List and invite them to a November 6, 2006 CBTF meeting to discuss potential projects on the identified impaired beaches.

World Ocean Conference '06

The Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program will be presented in a session on Wednesday September 20, 2006 at 8:00a.m. Laura Peters and Mark Gold will co-chair the session. Speakers will include: Dr. John Largier, presenting the results of the Enclosed Beaches

Symposium; Dr. John Dorsey, presenting his findings on the overall CBI Program effectiveness; and Jim Rasmus, Kathy Weldon, and Bob Stein, presenting CBI project specific talks.

It was noted that the Clean Beaches Task Force (CBTF) set a trend with their process of awarding grants (Proposition O following CBTF footsteps). The CBTF recommended giving a presentation to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) advocating the CBTF's process before the Proposition 50 CBI Guidelines are adopted. Drs. John Dorsey and Mark Gold agreed to give CBTF presentations at the October 25 Water Board Meeting.

Task Force Members for Next Phase

For the period beginning January 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2010, the CBTF nominees are:

1. John Dorsey, Loyola-Marymount University
2. Mark Gold, Heal the Bay
3. Jack Gregg, California Coastal Commission
4. Patricia Holden, University of California, Santa Barbara
5. Richard Lichtenfels, San Luis Obispo County
6. Peter Mangarella, Geosyntec
7. Monica Mazur, Orange County Health Care Agency
8. Charles McGee, Orange County Sanitary Districts
9. Mark McPherson, San Diego County Environmental Health
10. Dean Peterson, San Mateo County Environmental Health
11. James Rasmus, PBSJ
12. John Ricker, Santa Cruz County Environmental Health
13. Mary Small, California Coastal Conservancy
14. Philip Smith, Marin County Environmental Health
15. Richard Wagener, Los Angeles County Environmental Health
16. Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
17. Steve Weisberg, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
18. Kurt Berchtold, Santa Ana Regional Water Board

Public Comments

Next Meeting: November 6, 2006 at SCCWRP office in Orange County.